

The Tree Commission Meeting for the City of New Castle took place on January 9, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in the City of New Castle's Town Hall.

Members Present:      John Lloyd, Chairperson  
                                 Chip Patterson  
                                 Erv Thatcher  
                                 Tom Truman  
                                 Nancy Coning  
                                 Susan Keyser\*

Members Absent:      Fran Peden  
                                 Mark Miller

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Lloyd at 5:30 p.m. Roll call was taken.

\*Joined the meeting at 5:39 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – Ms. Keyser noted a minor correction on page 1. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 11/7/11 meeting as amended. The motion was approved.

#### Old Business

Mr. Truman suggested shaping up the Christmas tree in the park rather than removing or replacing the tree. This tree was discussed at a previous meeting. Mr. Lloyd agreed to have Russ Carlson and another qualified person look at the tree and offer suggestions.

#### Pruning Requests

57 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street -- the resident requested removal of dead wood in a tulip tree.

Chinese elm behind Mr. Miller's house (near Shaw Alley, public right-of-way) – needs pruning and ivy removed from tree; storm damage corrected in the tree.

916 Clayton Street – Large Chinese elm needs major dead wood removed.

29 The Strand – The pin oak tree is entangled in wires and it is recommended the tree be removed. The top of the tree is dead. A decision was on hold until Ms. Keyser had an opportunity to look at the tree. Ms. Keyser agrees with removal.

141 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street – Norway maple tree that was cut severely for power lines. The shape of the tree is dictated by the primary wires. Mr. Patterson will look at the tree and report back month.

Locust tree in the circle near the sailing club -- There is a lot of large dead wood in the tree. Mr. Lloyd's concern is the volume of vehicular and pedestrian traffic in the area. There is a cavity in the trunk of the tree. Discussion turned to a fungus on the tree. Mr. Lloyd will ask Russ Carlson to look at this tree.

Removal of the dead wood is necessary in the next few months.

Third Street (at end of street behind handicapped parking spot; between the parking lot and the sailing club) – Mr. Thatcher reported a tree with a lot of vines pulling branches down. Those branches are hitting rescue boat and truck. He requested trimming up the tree.

Memorial Park (4<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and Chestnut) – Mr. Lloyd reported a crab apple tree with severe fire blight. He suggested removing the tree. Ms. Keyser said she is not in favor of removing crab apple trees. Discussion about fire blight followed. Mr. Lloyd said there is at least one large leader that is dead. Members will look at the tree.

639 Clymer Street (corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Clymer) – Mr. Lloyd reported a pin oak that is showing no growth. He recommends removal. Members were asked to look at the tree.

Mr. Thatcher reported a pin oak tree next to the police substation in Dobbinsville that has been topped out for electric wires is causing visibility problems for City trucks.

Members' Report – None.

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Chairman's Report – Mr. Lloyd asked if members have seen the trees that were trimmed by Asplundh on 6<sup>th</sup> Street and New Castle Avenue. Discussion about contacting Delmarva and citing them for the damage done to the trees took place. Mr. Patterson said he requested Delmarva's arborist to come to a Tree Commission meeting some time ago and explain their standards, but was not successful. Mr. Lloyd noted the stubs (big and small) all over the sycamore trees. Mr. Patterson is not certain who has jurisdiction over those trees that are on state highway/public right-of-way. The City has taken jurisdiction. Mr. Lloyd said in the 1950s the State gave the City primary responsibility for those trees. He has the document that is still valid. That would give the City authority over trees in the State right-of-way. The trimming quality is poor. Citations can be written on each of the trees and submit to Delmarva Power, or write a letter to Delmarva Power expressing our displeasure with the work done. The City ordinance requires Delmarva to notify us when the work is going to be done. That requirement was satisfied. *(Further discussion about the guidelines used and work practices followed.)* A letter will be sent to Delmarva Power informing them of a timeframe to correct the poor work that has been done or the Tree Commission will cite them accordingly. Concern was noted if Tree, Inc. is needed to correct issues created by this work.

Mr. Lloyd informed that his term as chairman of this body will end soon. He asked members to be ready to discuss this at the next meeting.

There was brief discussion about Dr. Miller's tree. Mr. Patterson said there is a history with this tree and old letters are on file.

Budget Report

Mr. Lloyd reported we currently have a negative budget. He suggested submitting a requisition for proposed work to be done. *(Further discussion followed.)*

New Business

Mr. Lloyd suggested having someone go street by street through the City and trim the small trees. Ms. Keyser added this practice would help with the young trees' shape and will help to keep costs down in the future.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Truman commended the work that Tree, Inc. did on the cutting of the red maple tree at the corner of Harmony and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

Adjournment

There being no more business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Debbie**

Debbie Turner  
Stenographer